







Duties. The latter subject is that which more immediately interests us.

On this subject—being in a great measure Colonial—the newspaper reports are, as might have been expected, less liberal than on what relates to the exciting subject of Ireland. The Times report merely conveys a general notice, that Lord John Russell intends to oppose Ministers on the sugar duties, and that Mr Berkeley had demurred to the contemplated policy of his chief. The most explicit account of what Lord John said on this head is given in the Sunday Times. The report of this journal is assumed to be substantially accurate in the editorial remarks of the Daily News, and is further corroborated by a communication which has appeared in a Manchester paper. We are on these grounds inclined to believe that the report of the Sunday Times is substantially correct—and it is certainly more explicit and intelligible than Lord John's notice of motion in the House of Commons. The report referred to is as follows:—

"Lord John declared his intention to bring forward the proposal of which he had given notice for the extinction, at no distant period (understood at the end of five years), of the differential duties in favour of colonial sugar to be accompanied by effective measures for the encouragement and promotion of the immigration of free labour into the West India colonies."

A brief notice in the Observer, though not so full as the above, has caught a point which it omits—that the extinction is to take place gradually, and be distributed over five years, like the gradual extinction of the duty on foreign corn.

The principle of Lord John Russell's plan, our readers are well aware, entirely meets our views. For years we have advocated measures for the encouragement and promotion of the immigration of free labour into the sugar colonies. We have done this with a view to render it possible for the sugar of our free-labour colonies to compete with the slave-grown sugar of Brazil and Cuba on equal terms in the market of the world and beat them. We have longed for his consummation for two reasons—Because we have long foreseen the inevitably downward of the protective system and wished the colonies to be prepared for it; and because we believe that as soon as we can produce sugar more plentifully and cheaper in our English colonies by free labour than the Spaniards, Dutch, French, and Portuguese can produce it by slave labour in their colonies, then—no not off them—will these nations give themselves to abolish slavery. Our motto is and has been a "cheap sugar by free labour"—our object, abolition of slavery by addressing ourselves to the interests of the slave-masters, and through the abolition of slavery the abolition of the slave trade.

Lord John Russell has declared in favour of our means—immigration of free labour into the sugar colonies; he has declared in favour of our end—competition on equal terms between slave-grown and free-grown sugar. This is the principle of his motion, and upon it we are so unanimously at one. The unnecessary, though not unimportant details related to the time when, and the process by which, competition is to be thrown open. Lord John proposes that differential duties in favour of colonial sugar as against foreign slave-grown shall be gradually diminished—lowered so much one year and so much the next—until they are finally extinguished. This is a method of which we approved in the case of the abolition of the duty on foreign grain, although in that case we say nothing more to be gained by it than the prevention of panic. The English sugar-grower has an immense advantage over all his possible and contingent rivals in the fact that scientific agriculture and judicious combinations of agricultural labour have made so much greater progress in England than in any other country. He has also an abundant supply of labour, and as cheap as in any other country. The English labourer may be better paid than the continental, but in return he gives for a greater amount of steady, continuous, efficient labour. Another consideration which tells in favour of the English agriculturist is the length of time that must elapse before his continental or other competitor can materially increase the breadth of their corn lands. Lastly, the English agriculturist grows his crops in England, and the freight and other charges on foreign commodities, natural and prima not protective duty in his favour. Our English sugar colonies—despite the colonies and misrepresentations of their ill-willers, we maintain it—are more advanced in the use of scientific processes than any other sugar-producing countries whatever. But none of the other advantages of the English agriculturist are enjoyed by them. They are understood with labourers. There are considerable amounts of foreign sugar ready to be permanently transferred to the British market—all, for example, that is refined here in bond. And freight and other costs of importation must always be as great from the British Antilles as from Cuba and Brazil. In so far as the English agriculturist is concerned, the trade in grain might without danger be thrown free at once, if he could only be brought to believe it. But the English sugar-grower is not prepared. As a means of preventing what is a gradual extinction of the differential duty, beginning immediately, preferable to the entire and immediate abolition at some more distant epoch. The process of change has begun, and uncertainty—alike mischievous from its hopes and its fears—is removed.

As to the time specified by Lord John—five years—we frankly confess that it appears to us to be of his shortest. But in reality we have no choice. Had a five years measure been proposed or carried sooner, a longer term might have been insisted on, but now no more can be looked for. The tide of free trade has set in, and it runs more rapidly as leaving the broad channels and friths of trade it rushes into lesser rivers and creeks. Everything goes on more rapidly than it would have done some years ago, and it is almost to stand out in a few years the run will be more rapid still. There will be enough of difficulty to meet the five years' answer, but it will not need the matter to wait our time and strength in vain struggles for a prolonged term.

Undoubtedly though, be we with we were sure of it, Paris relations have been so broken and entangled that there is no possibility of concentrating the future any measure, or resolution in Parliament. Lord John's motion is a Bill and seems to be generally approved of by the majority of the head

of which he stands. The Whigs and Liberals constitute his main battle; but their numbers would be inadequate were it not for the auxiliaries—the Irish Whigs and the O'Connell followers for the most part—under Lord George Beningick. The incongruous and incoherent majority thus composed may be relied upon perhaps in the attack upon the Irish bill. The Whigs have the incentive of place; the Irish are fighting their own battle as Whig auxiliaries; and Lord George Beningick and his adherents are warring their own revenge. But such unworthy principles of aggregation cannot make a party. Lord John cannot count upon the O'Connell followers for any such assistance. Already there is a discord in the camp. Thirty Free-traders, it is said are resolved not to concur in a vote that may upset Sir Robert Peel. If these are the anti-corn law leaders, we are inclined to suspect their stumbling block is not the Irish measure but the sugar duties. They expect that Sir Robert will give more into their views on the sugar duties than Lord John will. This is uncertain; but everything is at present uncertain.—Colonial Gazette, June 13.

A WORD TO MONTREAL EDITORS.

We often meet with complaints in our colonial contemporaries of the little attention that the general press of England pays to colonial subjects. We are not about to deny that this complaint is far from unjust; but we would merely suggest to some of our brethren in the colonies, whether they are not themselves chargeable with a portion of the blame, from the little chance they give the English editor of getting it facts. Yet we are sure, for the benefit of the interests they represent, no less than for the gratification consequent on seeing their own labours daily effectual, that our fellow-workers across the seas would be glad to do any thing for that purpose that might help to diffuse information on colonial topics.

We must admit that we have always considered that our North American provinces, looking at their magnitude and population, have had peculiar reason to complain of the treatment they undergo from the London press. In nine cases out of ten our daily journals mention Canada only when they find a short paragraph ready to the scissors in an English newspaper. Is there a cause for this? We think there is, and will endeavour to suggest a remedy.

The fact is, the paragraph is taken simply because, as we said before, it is ready to hand. Time does not allow more. The West India islands meet with better treatment but then the journals there always devote a column or more just preceding the departure of the mail to a Summary, which is easily found, and easily extractable. If our Montreal friends would do the same, we should have to see Canada and her concerns in a position in the columns of the English journals to which she is so justly entitled.

We think we have only by way of enforcing our suggestion, to point to what has occurred with reference to the much-talked of Address from the Canadian Assembly that came over by the last mail. It has really failed of any effect whatever for want of news-paper explanation. The Protectionists would willingly have made it a trenchant weapon, but there was no handle to it. No one could explain in whose armoury the blade was forged, nor for whose hands it was destined. They were reluctantly obliged to throw aside this inviting snapper, with its assigns, as girdle, banner, and so, for very shame that they could prove no right of ownership. The "bearing" was, as we said before, a most delicate carriage, and of very "tender" construction; but unfortunately not responsive to the "hit." On the other hand, the Ministers, as witness Lord Lyttelton's speech of Thursday last, treated the Address as a mystery inexplicable to themselves, and of such uncertain origin as to be utterly useless for Parliamentary argument. The Times, we believe, finding nothing certain was to be known, very wisely never meddled with the subject; the Chronicle was sceptical; and the Post was sceptical at a visionary triumph. Neither the Address, nor the debate on it, nor the party were one, was to be found in the Montreal papers. We are ready to admit that there might have been no time for the insertion of either the one or the other; and that we do not expect that Montreal proprietors have those "appliances and means" which enable the London daily journals to accomplish such wonders of space and speed. Still we maintain that a Summary might have set all to rights—might have explained to us what was the precise value of a document destined to be paraded for so great an effect—whether, as we last week inquired, it was the offspring of national delusion, of party trickery, or of mere clerical haste; an inquiry, by the-by, by no means the less necessary now that we have the address in print.

We do not apologise for the liberty we are taking. We gave a proof of our own sense of the importance of the Canadian Parliament by devoting the whole of a recent number to a record of its debates.—a proof, also, of an estimation in which we held Canadian interests and the expression of Canadian will. Summary, then, dear editors, Summary; and, our lives on it, you will soon find that you will have that space given you in the English Journals which the interests you advocate, and the ability with which you advocate them, ought long since to have yielded you.—Ed.

THE EGRAIN STEAM-VESSSEL.

The following extracts from the official correspondence on the subject of the Eggrin, and the epidemic which broke out in the said vessel, recently presented to Parliament, will serve to throw some further light on the subject.

The dispatch of Sir W. Pym and Mr Armit to Mr Greville (No. 6), dated, "Whitehall, October 3, 1846," shows that four days after sailing from St. Lawrence one man died from fever and black vomit, the first case of the kind which had occurred in the same route before. Mr Greville, who was on board during the voyage, was attacked by the same malady (fever and black vomit) on the 13th day, at Bona Vista. The disease continued to spread rapidly among the crew, and was determined to land all the crew, as well as the passengers, at Bona Vista, and to be buried on the spot. The vessel was then ordered to return to Bona Vista, and to be washed and disinfected, and all the Kroomen and other natives on board were ordered to be disembarked at Bona Vista.

the officers and men on shore, 31 having died between August 21 and September 13.—Under these circumstances a consultation was held by three naval surgeons, when it was recommended and resolved that the steamer and crew should proceed to England.

The crew consequently re-embarked, and parted on the 13th of September. Captain Escourt was taken ill the day before leaving Bona Vista, and died on the 16th. At Bona Vista, Assistant Surgeon Hart, of the Eggrin, died; and Dr. McCune died on the 17th of October. On the arrival of the steamer at Madeira, the authorities refused permission to communicate with the shore, as had been done by the French at Goree. From the date of her sailing from Madeira (September 21), up to the 38th of that month, seven deaths took place from the fever, and eight fresh cases occurred.

The report of Mr Consul Kendall to Lord Aberdeen (dated San Antonio, Cape Verde, Dec. 22, 1845) sets forth in a very plain and forcible manner the anxiety which the stay of the Eggrin at Bona Vista caused him of was the most painful description, although the medical men persisted in their belief that the disease was merely the common African coast fever, and that there was no danger of its spreading among the people. This "non-infection" theory was subsequently refuted by facts. On the 20th of September, 17 days after the departure of the steamer, a white Portuguese soldier, one of the crew of the Eggrin, and with the crew of the Eggrin, died in the fort. The following day another died, and two or three were reported as sick. Up to the 9th of October an extraordinary heat and an immense quantity of rain had been experienced. The fever then showed itself most alarmingly, and each succeeding day to the end of the month gave two and sometimes three cases, all occurring within the immediate vicinity of the houses where the sick were placed.

The Portuguese practitioners, maintaining that the fever arose from the presence of the stagnant water, and held the same opinion till the 20th of November, when they openly declared it to be a fever of the worst description, and of a most contagious character. Up to the first week in December the fever continued to rage, and at that period it had found its way into almost all the villages—the deaths averaging seven or eight daily. Up to the 21st of December 250 had died at Bona Vista; but it was stated in a report that for four or five days previously there had been no deaths in the port, and in three of the country villages, although the fever still existed in two of them. The English suffered dreadfully, having lost one-third of their number. The leading symptoms of the disease were black vomit, pains in the head, back, and thighs, with a suppression of urine, and frequently the rupture of a blood-vessel. The fever proved contagious to those who acted as nurses to the sick with the exception of the Consul, who says that, had the authorities of the place insisted that the fever on board had exhibited a dangerous type, they never would have granted pratique. Mr Macaulay, in a letter transmitted to Lord Aberdeen (dated St. Nicholas, Cape Verde Islands, 24th of December, 1845), states his opinion that had the building used as a fever hospital been properly fumigated and purified prior to its reoccupation, had two or three patients there sized with fever been kept from all intercourse with the country, and that the houses in the neighbourhood were populated and closely built town, no bad consequences would have been experienced at Bona Vista from the visit of the Eggrin.

These facts seem completely to overthrow the opinion so decidedly expressed by Sir W. Burnett:—"That the fever in question arose from causes totally distinct from infection; that it was, in fact, the usual remittent fever of the coast, produced by the influence of marsh miasma, heightened by other causes, such as the exposure of the men, and the excesses committed by them." In the course of his despatch to the Secretary of the Admiralty, Sir W. Burnett says:—"If it can be fully and satisfactorily shown that any persons who had visited the ship or tents where the sick were placed contracted the fever and communicated it to others, or if they to other persons in succession, who had then visited the ships or the sick, then there can be no doubt that the infectious nature of the disease; but if nothing of the kind can be proved, then the conclusion must be, that the disease is not infectious, and is therefore incapable of being communicated; in either case settling this long-contested question." The opinion of Sir William appears to have been satisfactorily set aside by the facts already adduced, and it is seen that the fever was contagious as well as infectious.—Ed.

THE SEE OF ROME.

(From the Morning Chronicle.) The death of the Pope and the nomination of his successor is at the present moment the subject which creates the greatest interest on the continent of Europe, or at least in the Catholic portion of it. The enormous quantity of not very creditably intriguing to which the election of the head of the Catholic Church always gives rise, is so well known as to have become proverbial, and from all appearances the successor of Gregory XVI. will have as much difficulty in securing his election as Leo XII. gave rise to some extraordinary scenes. The Sacred College sat for 22 days before any one of the candidates could secure an absolute majority of the votes of the cardinals present, and as there were two ballots per day, there must have been at least 40 scrutines in all. But even then the election was not at an end, for the cardinal who obtained the necessary majority not being agreeable to others, that power exercised its veto, through its representatives, Cardinal Albani, and the whole process of election had to be begun anew. Why, then, there will be quite as much difficulty on the present occasion remains to be seen, but as the weather of temperance rather warm, it is to be hoped that their animosities will, for their own sakes, and for the sake of the world, be induced to curtail the formalities. It is understood that there are five candidates ready in the field, whose chances are nearly equal—namely, Cardinal Mirra, Cardinal Casanova, Cardinal O'Reilly, Cardinal Fransoni, and Cardinal Casanova, who has not heard. Of these Cardinal Casanova is the most likely to succeed, but it is not at all probable that he may be elected.

Cardinal Fransoni is a native of Genoa, where he was born on the 10th of December, 1775. He is a man of ability and erudition, and his being secured him the situation of head of the celebrated Propaganda at Rome, where his administration is said to have fully justified his previous reputation. But Cardinal Fransoni is a staunch supporter of the Jesuits, and as such is disapproved by a great number of the most enlightened of the event of his securing the majority of votes in the Sacred College, the French Government will interpose its veto, and exclude him from the Sacred chair.

The next candidate in point of favour is Cardinal Casanova, a member of the distinguished family of Antelmio, who was born at Urbino, on the 21st Sept., 1779, and who is Bishop of Palermo, and Grand Penitentiary. He is also considered a man of great ability and learning, and he is said to entertain opinions, both in religion and politics, much more advanced, and more in conformity with the present enlightened age than are generally to be met with among the most sacred College. Cardinal Casanova is considered the chief of France, being a distinguished member of the Sacred College, being a distinguished member of all the circles of the French party in Rome, and being called on, rather confidential terms with the Government of that country. The very fact, however, of his being agreeable to France makes him unpopular to Austria, and it is understood that the visit of Austria, in case the necessity should accrue, will prevent his ever being trusted with the keys of St. Peter. He is also powerful enemies in the Jesuits between whom and his eminence there is no love lost.

Cardinal Mirra is the next candidate on the list. He was born at Frascati in 1775, and is Dean of the Sacred College. He is also Bishop of Ostia and Velletri, and Prefect of the Congregation of Rites and Ceremonies. Cardinal Mirra is considered a Reformer and a Liberal in the sense in which liberality is understood at Rome; but he is of humble origin, and that circumstance is as degrading to prospects in the Church as it is among the laity. He is the candidate who would be most agreeable to the people of Rome, among whom he enjoys great popularity; but the prejudices of him make him unpopular in another important quarter. The Italian cardinals, who most of them are descended of families numbering an infinity of quarters, being in their aims, look forward with horror at the idea of a plebeian being placed over them, whose father had perhaps no coat-of-arms (or other award), and they are using their whole influence to prevent his success.

Cardinal Orioli is the next candidate, he was born at Bagnacavallo, in the diocese of Faenza, on the 10th of December 1778. He was a great favourite with Napoleon, under whose notice he came from a simple curate to cardinal, in France, and who ever afterwards kept him in close intimacy at quarters. He is supposed to entertain favourable recollections of France since his residence in that country, and it is understood that the French Government would be inclined to accept him, should he secure a majority in the Sacred College; but the fact of his being a friend and protégé of Napoleon does not improve his prospects of success, and his chances are therefore considered smaller than the others. There are therefore five candidates who have not heard. Cardinal Casanova is not mentioned by any one of the Italians, but he is not likely to come forward. Though his piety, learning, and estimable character will qualify him for the highest honours in the Church, the very fact of his being an Englishman would be of itself so strong an objection to him as to make his election impossible.

The Church of Rome is now rendering to the deceased Pope its last offices, which are called the Novena Diab, because they last nine days. The cardinals, formally assembled, exercise the sovereign authority, and are making preparations for the great act of the election of a successor to the late Pope, who is to be elected by a secret ballot. The members of the diplomatic body may enter the Conclave, and even the cells or apartments of the cardinals. At the closing of the night an official walks through the corridors ringing a bell, as the signal of departure, and the Conclave is closed in, not to be re-opened until after the election is consummated. All this will pass on the 11th instant, between seven and ten o'clock. The Conclave is guarded by a prince, called the Marshal of the Conclave, posted at the outer gates. The first ballot in the election will be taken on the 12th. All business is suspended during the sitting of the Conclave, even the tribunals suspend their proceedings, and the only authorities that retain their functions are the Camerlingo, the Grand Penitentiary, and the Vicar of Rome. No order can be issued from any other authority without being speedily confirmed by the assembled cardinals, whose confirmation is transmitted immediately to the Government of Rome, and the Treasurer-General. According to the custom which has always been observed, the arrival of the cardinal laymen and the foreign cardinals will be waited for before the election is seriously entered upon. The first may arrive at Rome in time or the second or third day after the death of the Pope; consequently there can be no election before the 20th instant, unless some unforeseen event shall occur. To constitute a valid election, the candidates must have at least two-thirds of the votes among his own. If 45 cardinals are assembled, he must have 30 votes; and if there be 46, the majority must be 31. If the Conclave be composed of 57 members, the election will be completely canonical if one of the candidates has 38 votes without reckoning his own.